

Palestinians deny responsibility for poisoned Jaffa oranges

ONN, Feb. 1 (R). — Sales of Israeli Jaffa oranges were halted in West Berlin today although there has been no official ban on the oranges in West Germany. Health authorities in many European countries ordered urgent checks on fruit stocks after the discovery of poisoned oranges in Holland and West Germany. The Palestine news agency Wafa today said Palestinians had nothing to do with the poisoning of Israeli oranges sent to Europe. (See story page 6).

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Knesset body ayes new fighter

JERUSALEM, Feb. 1 (R). — A sub-committee of the Knesset Security and Foreign Affairs Committee has recommended that Israel go ahead with planning a new locally-designed and produced fighter aircraft. Proposals for a new plane, a more sophisticated aircraft than the Israeli-made Kfir fighter already in operation, have been under discussion for some time. The sub-committee reported to the full committee today that planning for the new aircraft should be started now, as Israel could not afford to be dependent on outside sources for vital arms. The new plane, tentatively called the Arye (lion), would be the local equivalent of the American made F-15 which Israel is buying from the U.S.

Price: Jordan 50 fils; Syria 50 piastres; Lebanon 75 piastres; Saudi Arabia 1 riyal; UAE 1 dirham; Great Britain 25 pence.

New anti-Sadat offensive drafted for Algiers summit

TERS, Feb. 1 (R). — Plans for a new offensive against Egyptian-Israeli peace moves drawn up today for the opening of the Arab League summit in Algiers tomorrow. The offensive, which will be led by the Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, is expected to be a major topic at the summit. The offensive is expected to be a major topic at the summit. The offensive is expected to be a major topic at the summit.

and the Libyan head of state, Col. Muammar Qadhafi, were due to arrive later. Algerian President Houari Boumedienne is expected to deliver the opening address when the summit opens tomorrow in the luxury Aurassi Hotel overlooking the Bay of Algiers. Mr. Abdul Muhsin Abu Maizer, chief PLO representative at the foreign ministers' talks in which proposals for the summit were framed, said the ministers discussed moves going beyond the programme adopted at the Tripoli conference. He gave no details. The key provisions of a 10-point document drawn up in Tripoli were the formation of a mutual defence pact and the freezing of relations with Egypt.

PFLP will attend

In Beirut, Mr. Bassam Abu Sharif, a leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), said that leaders of the Palestinian rejection front will participate in the Algiers summit in Algiers tomorrow.

South Yemen's delegation arrived shortly afterwards. It was led by Mr. Abdul Fattah al-Sayid, Secretary General of the ruling National Liberation Front, and widely regarded as the most powerful figure in the new leadership.

Prince Hassan returns home

AMMAN, Feb. 1 (JNA). — His Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Her Highness Princess Sarwat returned to Jordan last night after a ten-day visit in the United States. His Majesty King Hussein welcomed the royal couple on their arrival at the airport. During his stay the Crown Prince met with a number of top ranking American officials in Washington and New York and discussed with them the possibilities of working out a research programme in Jordan in co-operation with American institutions. On the return journey, a Highness met a number of officials in London to discuss possible long-term co-operation with specialised international institutions in the field of finance and industry.

ANA, JNA split seen

TRUT, Feb. 1 (R). — The official Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) today distributed its news bulletin under a new name, rather than its Jordanian counterpart. SANA and the Jordanian news agency (JNA) have been distributing a joint bulletin for about a year, creating the Jordanian-Syrian news agency (JSNA). This move was seen as a sign of closer coordination of the two countries' activities in the various domains, including the field of information. There has been no immediate official explanation for the split. Observers, however, noted that relations between the two states became lukewarm over the recent Anwar Sadat's move towards Israel. Syria's Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam, in an interview with the Lebanese magazine Al Hayat last week, said the Jordanian stand was "inconceivable."



U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Alfred Atherton (left) exchanges a joke with Egypt's Foreign Minister Mohammad Kamel (extreme right) during their talks Wednesday. U.S. Ambassador to Cairo, Hermann Eilts (3rd from left) and two unidentified officials look on. (AP wirephoto)

Downtown Beirut blast kills one, injures 17

BEIRUT, Feb. 1 (R). — A grenade exploded in a crowded Beirut square today, killing one person and wounding 17 others, two of them seriously.

Hospital sources, giving the casualty toll, said doctors were fighting for the lives of two of the injured. Eyewitnesses said the casualties were caused by a hand grenade which exploded on Martyrs' Square. It had been tossed into a clothes shop and kicked out by an alert employee.

The blast was the latest in a series of explosions since the Lebanese civil war ended 14 months ago.

Observers said the incident underlined the failure of attempts to re-establish full security in a country whose political and social problems remain unsolved. The war here left an estimated 60,000 dead but none of its underlying causes have been removed.

The civil war truce is being policed by a 30,000-strong Arab League peace force made up mainly of Syrian regulars who moved into the main combat zones in November, 1976 to separate the combatants.

Steel-helmeted Syrian troops armed with automatic rifles and anti-tank grenade launchers sealed off the area, in the heart of Beirut's commercial district -- an area reduced to ruins by tens of thousands of shells during the war.

There were no details on the motive for the attack. It followed two explosions which caused slight material damage in the square last night.

Interior Minister Salah Salameh said in a radio interview "certain quarters" were interested in fanning moves to establish stability in Lebanon and reconcile the antagonists. He did not spell out the identity

of those he believed responsible.

Part of the 1975-76 fighting here was an Arab war by proxy, reflecting the differences between Egypt and Syria and their respective supporters at the time. Many Lebanese feel that inter-Arab differences will again be fought out here.

Syrian Defence Minister Mustafa Tlas had talks on arrival here today from Damascus on security and military issues.

Mr. Fuad Butros, his Lebanese counterpart, told reporters after the 30-minute meeting that he took the opportunity to express appreciation for efforts made by Syrian troops in Lebanon to re-establish security in the country.

On his part, Maj.-Gen. Tlas said he had also inspected Syrian forces and met with Brig. Victor Khoury, the Lebanese army commander.

USSR, Cuba, Israel, E. Germany aiding Addis Ababa regime, visiting Eritrean leader says

AMMAN, Feb. 1 (R). — An Eritrean leader today charged that the Soviet Union, Cuba, East Germany, and Israel were supporting Ethiopia against Eritrean and Somali liberation forces fighting the Addis Ababa regime.

Mr. Uthman Salah Sabbi, leader of the Eritrean Liberation Front Popular Liberation Forces (ELF-PFLF), who arrived in Amman yesterday on a visit lasting a few days, told the Jordan News Agency the Soviet Union "recently intervened to supply Ethiopia's regime with arms while Cuba brought in military forces and East Germany sent military experts."

He said that Israeli planes were landing in Ethiopian airports with experts and military equipment on board.

"We have recently noted that planes which bombed Eritrean and Somali towns were piloted by Cubans and Israelis. This is because of a shortage in the number of Ethiopian pilots who have been liquidated by the Addis Ababa regime," he was quoted as saying.

He charged that the Soviet Union was supporting Ethiopia because it wanted to impose its domination on the outposts of the Red Sea and the Horn of Africa.

"We have expected the Western countries, first and foremost the United States, to supply us with arms to create a balance with the arms being flown into Ethiopia by the Soviet Union and its allies. But the West gave no aid, probably because of the Zionist influence and Zionist belief that Eritrea's independence would be a loss to Zionist influence in the Red Sea basin," Mr. Sabbi added.

On the possibility of a declaration of Eritrean independence, Mr. Sabbi said such a declaration was expected any moment as the liberation movements were in full control of 95 per cent of Eritrean territory. He said he had been assured of recognition of independence

by many Arab and African states.

But Mr. Sabbi warned that there were obstacles which could delay the declaration of independence. He said that three movements were now fighting against Ethiopia and each controlled part of "the liberated territory. If independence is to be declared now several governments would be formed."

"Our efforts are now being concentrated on unifying the three liberation movements, the Eritrean Liberation Front-Popular Liberation Forces (ELF-PFLF), Eritrean Liberation Front-Revolutionary Council (ELF-RC) and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Eritrea," he added.

Mr. Sabbi called on the Arab countries to use their influence and unify the three fronts.

He said that during "18 years of fighting 70,000 martyrs have fallen and 400,000 Eritreans have taken refuge in Sudan. 95 per cent of Eritrean territory are liberated and Ethiopian occupying forces only control the capital Asmara, the Massawa port, Assab and Barento."

Mr. Sabbi complained that all that was received in financial aid from the Arab states during 1977 amounted to \$12 million while Ethiopia received in military and financial aid some \$1,000 million from the

ISRAEL DENIES

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Feb. 1 (R). — Israel's Defence Ministry today dismissed charges that Uthman Salah Sabbi's charges that Israeli pilots were bombing towns in Eritrea and Somalia.

A ministry spokesman was referring to remarks, carried by the Jordan News Agency, which quoted statements made by the leader of the Eritrean Liberation Front -- Popular Liberation Forces.

Cairo military talks adjourn, Weizman flies back to Israel today

CAIRO, Feb. 1 (R). — Egyptian-Israeli military talks adjourned tonight with no indication of progress over the problem of Jewish settlements in Sinai which Israel wants to keep. The Egyptian military spokesman Maj.-Gen. Hassan Kateb, who announced the adjournment in a brief statement, said "There will be coordination between both sides to fix a date for next meeting."

Gen. Kateb said the Israeli delegation led by Gen. Ezer Weizman would return to Jerusalem tomorrow.

In his statement, Gen. Kateb said that during the talks both sides discussed "major issues" on the agenda, but gave no details.

The present round of talks, at which War Minister Gen. Mohammad Abdul Ghani Gammassi led the Egyptian delegation, began yesterday at Tahrir square near Cairo amid stringent security measures.

Today, both sides held two meetings, details of which were not available and no press conference was held by either side.

Analysts here believe the talks were not likely to resume before two weeks, when President Anwar Sadat completes his eight-nation tour which begins tomorrow.

The tour includes important talks with President Carter at Camp David, Maryland, this weekend.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Alfred Atherton said today differences still remained between Egypt and Israel on restarting their stalled peace talks.

Mr. Atherton was speaking to reporters after giving Egyptian Foreign Minister Ibrahim Kamel Israel's latest ideas on a declaration of principles for a Middle East peace settlement, the key to resuming political talks in Jerusalem.

The assistant secretary brushed aside a question on whether the gap between the two sides was wider now.

"This thing of trying to measure on a day-to-day basis whether they are closer or further apart... I think there are still differences to be overcome and that is the purpose of the negotiating process which we are trying to help out," he said. Egypt is not prepared to go back to the talks in Jerusalem until there is agreement on a declaration of principles.

Mr. Atherton said he discussed with Mr. Kamel the ideas he brought from his talks with Israeli leaders.

He added Mr. Kamel gave him Egypt's views on a draft declaration of principles "and we will be reflecting on this to see where we go from here."

Following their discussions, Mr. Atherton and Mr. Kamel had a one-hour meeting with

President Anwar Sadat and Vice President Husni Mubarak who has just completed a 10-nation Middle East tour.

A U.S. spokesman said they carried out a "broad review of the full range of issues President Sadat will be discussing

with President Carter this weekend."

Mr. Sadat will also visit Morocco, Britain, West Germany, Austria, Romania, France and Italy, to canvass support for his stand on a comprehensive Middle East settlement.

Leftist Cairo paper calls for break with Israel

CAIRO, Feb. 1 (R). — A new Egyptian leftwing newspaper today called for a halt to all contacts with Israel and urged re-opening a dialogue with the Soviet Union.

The first issue of the weekly newspaper Al Ahali, organ of the small leftwing Unionist Progressive Party which has three members in the People's Assembly (parliament), also appealed for Arab unity.

The party opposed President Anwar Sadat's decision to visit Israel last November and said the visit would "not add to the elements of Arab might and will on the contrary weaken the Arab position and give Israel an opportunity to strengthen its intransigence."

Al Ahali said that "with the faltering steps of the visit's aftermath," it was time to try another approach.

The paper suggested a five-point plan for Egypt to: Halt all talks and contacts with Israel, giving Israel time to "understand what it is unable to understand now as a result of its complex of might and arrogance."

— undertake another initiative to achieve Arab unity by breaking all barriers between it and Arab countries either hostile or neutral towards Mr. Sadat's initiative.

— reconsider its policy towards the Soviet Union, establish a dialogue and resolve accumulated differences.

— play the role of "a mediator and peace force, not a deterrent force" in Africa, which it could do better than any other country.

— establish a domestic policy of "mobilisation and development to build a sound and capable society to face all challenges."

Belgium urges gesture of peace from Israel

BRUSSELS, Belgium, Feb. 2 (AP). — The Belgian government has urged Israel to recognize the right of the Palestinians to determine their own fate as a necessary step towards peace in the Middle East.

That Israel accept the Palestinians' right to self-determination was stressed in a letter

by Belgian Foreign Minister Henri Simonet to his Israeli counterpart Mr. Moshe Dayan.

The contents of the letter were revealed by official sources in Brussels yesterday.

The letter, according to Belgian officials, said that it was in the interest of Israel to approve of a homeland for the Palestinians and allow them to decide on its organization.

M. Simonet was said to insist that self-determination for the Palestinians was a necessary condition for the acceptance by the Arab nations of a peace plan, which could then be negotiated to give Israel the necessary security guarantees.

M. Simonet warned that the wishes of the Palestinian people could not be further disregarded and that the time had come to face the problem head on.

For M. Simonet, the hopes raised by the Sadat-Begin meetings must be followed by a spirit of compromise taking into account the reality of the situation: The Palestinian problem.

M. Simonet was reported as urging a further gesture from Israel, insisting such a gesture would not endanger the future of the Israeli state.

He also insisted that a peace settlement be based on the U.N. Security Council resolutions requesting evacuation of occupied territories.

M. Simonet is said to believe the Israelis had been unhappy about this letter.

He also said he had decided to address himself alone to Mr. Dayan after the nine European Community members had failed to agree on a joint reaction to recent developments in the Middle East.

Not long before M. Simonet's letter was forwarded to the Israeli government, it was learned in Brussels that Jordan had urged the nine to make some gesture to encourage a peace settlement in the Middle East.

Soviet, S. Yemeni troops said active in Eritrean conflict

By Dan Connell

NORTHERN ERITREA, Jan 27 (delayed) (R). — Soviet and South Yemeni troops are taking an active part in the Eritrean war to suppress the Eritrean war for independence.

The Eritrean government has denied that any foreign troops are taking part in the fighting against the Eritreans or Somali forces in the Ogaden Desert.

The official, who is seeking political refuge was treated as a guest by the guerrillas and did not appear to be under any coercion or pressure as he sat talking to me under a tree in the EPLF camp.

There have been reports that the Russians are building naval facilities on the Dahlak Islands, off the Eritrean coast, and in Assab, which controls the narrow southern entrance to the Red Sea.

"The Russians want the ports now that they're out of Berbera," the defecting Ethiopian official said. Berbera is in northern Somalia where the Russians maintained a naval base before they were ejected by the Somali government in 1977.

As heavy Soviet arms supplies began last year to pour into Ethiopia, the Russian advisers and technicians followed in large numbers, the official said.

At any given time, there were at least 40 Soviet technicians in Massawa prior to the

The Ethiopian defectors also said that South Yemeni crews had driven Soviet-supplied T-54 tanks into battle.

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No change in the bottom line

Nobody can pretend that Jordan today is a regional business centre. Nevertheless a number of foreign companies have established offices here, and there are operations based in Jordan which are regional in nature.

Yet as the survey conducted by two professors at the University of Jordan and published on this page today shows, those companies who are here are less than universally satisfied with the conditions under which they are operating.

We presume that the government is serious in its intentions about building Jordan into a regional business centre. We acknowledge that the government is working towards alleviating the problems but we are concerned that right down there, at the end of the balance sheet, the bottom line is not showing much change.

Of course the Telecommunications Corporation is doing something about telephones and telex lines. But how many people are still waiting for telephones?

Of course the Ministry of Supply is doing something about the cost of living. But all its efforts on controlling food prices and restaurant prices are not going to make much inroads in the cost of living for expatriates while their expenses are dominated by the cost of housing and office accommodation in the capital.

Of course rents have come down recently. But down from what to what? If rents in 1976 rocketed to six times their 1974 levels and have now come down to only four times their 1974 levels does that make them cheap today?

It is going to take more than good intentions and a few palliatives to really change the bottom line.

At the end of the day Jordan's success in becoming a regional business centre will depend on how courageous people in authority are today in getting to grips with the situation and making Jordan more attractive for the internationally oriented businessman tomorrow.

The specifics of what needs to be done are obvious from the survey by Dr. Kamel Abu Jaber and Dr. Fawzi Ghareibeh. What actually is done will be a measure of officialdom's real desire to build an international business centre here against paying the idea lip service.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL RAI, on Wednesday, said His Majesty King Hussein's surprise visit on Sunday to the Baqa'a refugee camp was followed up on Tuesday with another meeting with a delegation from refugee camps. King Hussein explained to these, the people of the Palestinian cause, Jordan's viewpoint on the cause and he stressed the country's determination to realise Arab solidarity. As far as the Palestinian issue is concerned, His Majesty clarified the bases upon which a solution must be established. He said a comprehensive and just peace based on the return of occupied territories, including Jerusalem, to their Arab owners and the guarantee of Palestinian self-determination must be afforded.

THE BRITISH COUNCIL

and

THE JORDAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

present

A lecturer on Air Pollution by Dr. Adil Jarar, President of the Jordan Chemical Society.

At 17:30 today at the British Council Centre.

Opening

shortly

Bar Beque

AMMAN - SHMEISANI
OPPOSITE JORDAN TOWER

New survey by university professors probes attitudes of foreign companies here

The Dean of the Faculty of Commerce and Economics at the University of Jordan Dr. Kamel Abu Jaber, and his deputy Dr. Fawzi Ghareibeh have finalised a study on the difficulties and expectations of foreign companies in Jordan. We publish below a summary of their findings which first appeared in Wednesday's Al Rai Arabic daily.

The study included a description of the situation of these companies from their date of establishment until the end of the year 1976. It also included the comments and observations by these companies on the facilities and services which they receive from the Jordanian government.

The study has shown that many of these companies, although registered at the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, have no actual existence in Jordan.

It was discovered through the study that 50 of the foreign companies are European, 34 American, four Lebanese and the rest are from different other countries.

The main interests of these companies are in the fields of commerce, marketing, electronic industries, engineering and contracting, medical services, and insurance services.

The main regional headquarters of 88 per cent of these companies is in Jordan and they serve the whole area.

Reasons for choosing Jordan

For 69 per cent of the companies their choice of Jordan was influenced by the unstable Lebanese situation, 62 per cent because of political stability in

Jordan, 54 per cent because of the geographical situation, 46 per cent because of the law for registration of companies in Jordan, 31 per cent because of a number of facilities, 27 per cent because of the weather, 15 per cent because of the free economic system, and 15 per cent because of the contracts with the government.

62 per cent of the companies would prefer Beirut to be their centre, 35 per cent prefer Amman, 38 per cent prefer Amman as second choice after Beirut, eight per cent prefer Amman to Beirut.

Difficulties facing foreign companies

54 per cent of the companies face difficulties because of the lack of suitable secretaries, 38 per cent because of the lack of skilled workers, 35 per cent because of a shortage of middle level management in Amman, 27 per cent because of difficulties in locally employing senior management, 23 per cent because of labour costs, 19 per cent because of the low level of production.

Wages problems

19 per cent of the companies consider the wages here

lower than in their home countries, 46 per cent find wages similar to their countries, 31 per cent find wages more than double what they pay in their home countries.

Housing problems

58 per cent of the companies faced problems in housing their directors, 49 per cent faced problems in housing their employees, and 38 per cent had a problem finding offices.

The companies pay between JD 1,000-5,000 annual rent on their offices. 35 per cent of them pay JD 2,000-4,000, 20 per cent pay more than JD 5,000.

Communication facilities

All the companies have a problem of delay in telephone installations. 23 per cent of them had to wait from three to 10 months to have a telephone line connected. 31 per cent had to wait less than three months. Four per cent waited 18 months.

Airport facilities

73 per cent say they find the airport facilities in Jordan good, but the flights to the Gulf are not frequent enough and are at bad times.

Cost of living

Four per cent of the companies consider that the cost of living is similar to their own countries, 11 per cent think it is higher and 42 per cent that it is twice as high. 88 per cent agreed it is higher than in their own countries.

Government procedures

92 per cent of the companies said that they find the government procedures are unnecessarily complicated they.

69 per cent think that establishing personal relationships with government employees makes things easier for them. One third of all the foreign companies in Jordan think that giving "gifts" to government employees is necessary to make things easier, 61 per cent said they did not give gifts.

Three quarters of the companies think that Amman is the best place for the foreign companies to have their regional offices for the Middle East 19 per cent disagree.

At the end of the study the two university professors gave recommendations on how to attract more foreign companies to come here.

Ministry of Supply acts to cut cost of dining out in Jordanian restaurants

By Ian Kellas
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN, Feb. 31. — As from today it should be anything from five to 40 per cent cheaper to eat out in Jordan than it has been till now.

This was the estimate of Mr. Yousef Annani, Administrative Manager at the Ministry of Supply based on the new price controls effected by the Ministry on all restaurants. Mr. Annani spoke to the Jordan Times while a long stream of rather distraught restaurant owners filed into his office today to have their price lists officially stamped.

It has already been decreed that shops must display their prices clearly; now it is obligatory for restaurants to put up a menu showing prices as they have been fixed by the Ministry of Supply (these vary according to restaurant classification -- from five stars down to one).

One restaurant proprietor told the Jordan Times that if prices were enforced as the Ministry has decreed them, all that he will be able to do is to lock the door and give up his business. He gave examples of the impact the new decree has had on a two-star establishment. The price of a Pepsi has been halved (from 150 fils to 75). Shugaf (a meat dish) which he claims costs 600 fils to buy from the butcher must sell now in his restaurant at 700 fils whereas before today it was priced at 900 fils. The price of a cup of Nescafe has been slashed from 350 fils to 100.

The proprietor claimed that the ministry does not know what it costs to run a restaurant. His rent alone he said was JD 2,500 a year. On top of that he has to pay the salaries of 15 employees.

Complaints

Mr. Annani admitted that there had been complaints about the price decree -- particularly from the "luxury" restaurants. He said that prices fixed by the ministry "were not taken from the Koran"; and "We must be flexible". Speaking not just about restaurant prices but all price controls, he went on: "We have

opened the door for appeals".

His department would be studying special cases and has already decided to permit percentage increases on the basic prices for restaurants providing entertainment, musicians, singers and dancers.

Prices on essential commodities were fixed by the government even before the Ministry of Supply came into existence in 1974. But the range of price controls has been extended since then a good deal and now covers not just wheat, flour, sugar and rice but also things like oil-based products (petrol etc.) cement, vegetables, fruit and meat -- what Mr. Annani called "basic materials".

It is easy enough for the ministry to control the price of sugar and wheat for instance because it has a monopoly over importing those commodities. Over chicken imports it does not, and so while it fixes its own prices it allows private importers to charge what they like.

Profit calculated

Studies are conducted at the department into costs and a certain permissible margin of profit is calculated. This varies of course depending on whether the commodity is highly perishable or not and so on. If it is felt necessary to stabilize prices a decree is issued and advertised in the media some time before it comes into effect.

The warning period has on occasion been as short as one night. Ramadan is a critical month when demand on meat for instance is exceptionally high and emergency price regulations are liable to be decreed.

In Amman alone there are no fewer than 55 price inspectors (and a further 10 quality control officers), who patrol from shop to shop in a 12 hour service. They do not wear uniforms and Mr. Annani spoke of "very severe punishments" for offenders.

It is of course permissible to sell at below the government prices -- but Mr. Annani believed that would not be easy except perhaps in fruit and vegetables. The ministry's officials fix those prices at the

Jordan's recurring and development budgets for 1978 total JD 85m.

AMMAN, Feb. 1 (JNA). — A royal decree was issued approving the state budget law for 1978.

The cabinet earlier approved the budget during a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Mudar Badran on Wednesday afternoon.

Minister of Finance Mohammad Dabbas issued a communique in which he stated that the total income increase in the 1978 budget amounted to about JD 45 million, a percentage increase of 13.5 per cent. But the increase on local income is estimated to touch a percentage of 20.5 per cent.

Mr. Dabbas went on to say that current expenditure was expected to increase by JD 37 million, or 16.5 per cent, while the recurring and development budgets for 1978 totalled JD 85 million against JD 70 million last year, a 21.5 per cent increase. Estimate of the deficit in 1978 budget did not exceed that of last year which was JD 15 million, he added.

Potash project could yield 25% annual profit

AMMAN, Feb. 1 (JNA). — The Director General of the Arab Potash Company Mr. Ali Khasawneh returned home from the United States of America today after a three-week working visit.

He said upon arrival that the purpose of the visit "was to evaluate the economic advantages of the potash project".

A meeting held in Pasadena by World Bank, the U.S. Agency for International Development and Jacobs Engineering Inc., the advisory company for the potash project, decided that

the project will show 25 per cent annual profit if the capital investment for the project is met by share issues and 11 per cent if it is covered by loans.

Mr. Khasawneh said that the potash project will cost \$420 million. The project will produce around 1,200,000 tons of potash annually.

On his way to the U.S. Mr. Khasawneh visited London where he discussed with a number of institutions the possibility of their raising finance for the project.

THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AQABA PORT DEPARTMENT AQABA — JORDAN

INVITATION TO CONSULTANTS FOR PREQUALIFICATION

Aqaba Port Department requires the services of a West German consultant firm for:

a) Training Centre

The establishment of a Port Training Centre in an existing building for the training of Deckmen, Winchmen, Foremen, Teleclerks, sorting clerks, shed masters, winch drivers, Forklifts and crane drivers, and equipment maintenance mechanics and electricians.

The consultant will advise and prepare specifications for the type of furniture, equipment and models which may be required for the school. He will also advise and supply the required number of instructors for school.

b) Berth Maintenance Expert

The consultant will provide advice regarding the maintenance of piles in the existing berths either by cathodic or other means of protection. He will also train the port technical staff for the maintenance and light repairs of piles and deck slabs.

c) Organisation Expert

The consultant will advise regarding the coordination between the port management and the maritime establishment (which is concerned with the handling of cargo inside the port) and also a suggested organisation for the possible amalgamation of the two bodies.

The consultants will produce evidence of their previous experience regarding the above terms, outline details of staff who might be employed and of their financial standing.

The prequalification documents must reach Aqaba Port Dept. Aqaba/Jordan P.O. Box (115) not later than March 1, 1978.

Copies of the prequalification documents must simultaneously reach Kreditanstalt Fur Wiederaufbau, Frankfurt am Main D-6, Palmengartenstrasse 5/9, West Germany.

WHAT'S GOING ON

Starting tonight and lasting through Saturday. The Girl in the Freudian Slip will be showing at the Jordan Theatre on Jabal Luweibdeh at 8:30 every evening. The show is presented by the American Women of Amman and tickets are available from JM Boutique, G1 Rho Ma Music School, Interdesign (all in the New Insurance Bldg., Jabal Amman) and at the door.

At the British Council, a lecture by Dr. Adil Jarar will discuss the contemporary problem of air pollution and its various solutions. The lecture begins at 5:30.

The Friends of Archaeology are holding their annual Dinner Dancing Party tonight. Tickets are available at the Goethe Institute as well as applications for anyone interested in becoming a member.

TO LET

Apartment in a very quiet quarter, near Third Circle, Jabal Amman, consisting of two bedrooms, two bathrooms, a spacious hall, a dining room and sitting room, open verandah, one kitchen, spacious garden with central heating.

Ring up telephone No. 41641 between 2:00-4:00 p.m.

TO LET

Two-bedroom garden flat (with telephone), fully furnished and centrally heated, located near Zahran Post Office, Jabal Amman.

Phone: 23600, Mr. Khader.

مكتبة الامم المتحدة

National News Roundup

Princess Haya presents TV set to Aqaba hospital

AMMAN, Feb. 1 (JNA). — Her Highness Princess Haya has presented a colour television set as a gift to Princess Haya Hospital in Aqaba.

Education seminar ends

AMMAN, Feb. 1 (JNA). — The three-day seminar on educational supervision, held by the Ministry of Education, concluded its proceedings here today. The seminar discussed the importance of familiarising teachers with the principles of educational supervision, as a basic part in the educational process.

Talhouni meets Libyan envoy

AMMAN, Feb. 1 (JNA). — The Speaker of the Upper House, Hajj Talhouni received in his office today the Libyan ambassador to Jordan.

Arab chambers of commerce, industry and agriculture to meet in Amman

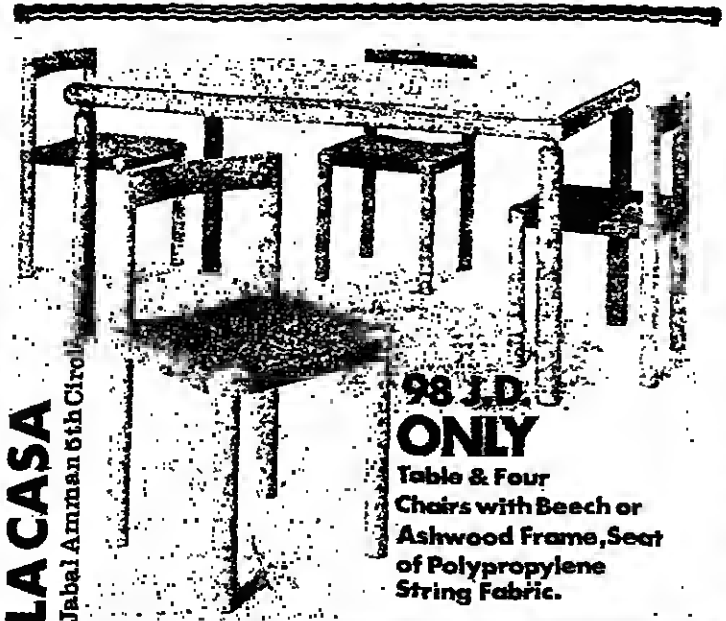
AMMAN, Feb. 1 (JNA). — The forty-fifth session of the General Union of Arab Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture will be held here. It will discuss working papers on increasing volume of trade, industrial and agricultural exchanges and facilitating the transit of goods among Arab countries. The preparatory committee held its first meeting today. The Secretary General of the Union is Dr. Burhan Al Dajani.

Tree planting begins in Ma'an

MA'AN, Feb. 1 (JNA). — 4,000 forestry saplings were planted today in an area allocated for the silver jubilee forest north of the town. The forest area is 140 dunams and some 14,000 trees will be planted. The governor of Ma'an appealed to countrymen to preserve and tend to the trees as a national wealth.

Jordanian Soviet delegations discuss bilateral tourism

AMMAN, Feb. 1 (JNA). — A meeting was held Tuesday evening between Jordanian and Soviet delegations to discuss tourist relations between the two countries. The Director General of Tourism Michael Hamarneh said the two sides reviewed tourism relations and development and agreed on increasing mutual visits through tourism and travel agencies. They also discussed possibility of promoting youth visits between the two countries, bearing in mind that the Olympic Games will be held in Moscow in 1980.



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Cuba bids for Third World--especially African--leadership

Cuba has sent its soldiers, doctors, builders to various parts of the world -- especially Africa -- in a bid for Third World leadership. Here is a report on the Cuban presence compiled from information collected by Associated Press bureaus around the world and written by a veteran correspondent in Africa, who has followed Cuba's buildup in that part of the world.

By Larry Heinzerling

(AP) — Cubans are fighting wars in black Africa, breeding bulls and building roads in Asia and waging a low-key campaign to win influence among their Caribbean neighbours.

The island nation's campaign for Third World leadership -- with Africa replacing Latin America as its top priority -- mixes the gospel of socialism with a flood of soldiers, doctors and other technical advisers.

Cuba's largest presence abroad is in Africa where an estimated 27,000 Cubans, mostly soldiers, operate in 16 countries.

President Fidel Castro also has dispatched his "international builders brigade" to Vietnam and is wooing friends in Jamaica in the Caribbean and Guyana on South America's northeast coast.

Aside from soldiers, the brigade resembles in many ways the U.S. Peace Corps. It includes everything from teachers, basketball coaches and doctors to construction workers and dance instructors, often followed by propaganda movies and the government-owned agency, Prensa Latina.

In Vietnam, Cuba has opened a bull-breeding centre northwest of Hanoi, built a hospital in central Binh Tri Province and constructed a 50-km. highway southwest of Hanoi linking industrial and agricultural areas.

The Vietnamese government recently awarded friendship medals to 20 Cuban experts for their contribution to war reconstruction.

In the Caribbean, Cubans in Jamaica have built an agricultural school for 500 students outside Kingston, have a micro-dam project in the works, are training construction crews and providing technical assistance in sports, science, tourism, mining and agriculture.

In Guyana, a brigade of doctors has been working in Georgetown and remote areas

of the interior. Cuban experts in Georgetown are also in charge of the shrimp fleet, training Guyanese in fishing. Elsewhere in the region, Cuba is the main supporter of the Puerto Rican independence movement. Informed sources in Puerto Rico -- a U.S.

advisers in Zambia to train black nationalist guerrillas fighting in neighbouring Rhodesia. The report was called "complete rubbish" by Joshua Nkomo, Leader of the Zimbabwe African Peoples Union, who visited Havana last year.

Cuba's largest presence in Africa is still in Angola, the former Portuguese colony where an expeditionary force of 19,000 soldiers and 4,000 civilian advisers are backing the Marxist government against two guerrilla nationalist movements.

Cuba's most recent major

for Third World leadership, with the blessing and funding of the Soviet Union.

"African blood flows through our veins," Mr. Castro said more than a year ago. "We are not only a Latin American nation, we are a Latin African nation."

Cuban blood has spilled in Angola, where thousands of Cuban troops helped President Antonio Neto and his Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola defeat two other nationalist armies backed by the United States and South Africa.

U.S. officials in Washington say 500 to 600 Cuban soldiers have been killed in clashes with anti-government forces. Some political observers regard Angola as a potential Cuban Vietnam since one of the defeated factions, Jonas Savimbi's National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, is still fighting a guerrilla war in the southern part of the country.

The Cubans are not universally embraced in black Africa. Such conservative leaders as President Felix Houphouet-Boigny of the Ivory Coast fear communist expansion.

Stories of the "ugly Cuban" also are beginning to surface.

"Go boil this water again," one Cuban was heard shouting at a waiter at a cafe in Bissau, capital of Guinea-Bissau, last year. "You want us to get sick with this African water?"

There are persistent although unconfirmed reports of ill feeling between Cuban soldiers and Angolan troops who resent taking orders from outsiders.

The Cubans have suffered some setbacks in Africa in the last decade.

They befriended the leftist regime as Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana who was toppled by a coup in 1966. The new government expelled Cubans, Russians and all other communist bloc diplomats for a period.

In 1968, the Congo government in Brazzaville expelled most of several hundred Cubans there charging they meddled in the nation's internal affairs. They are now back. Somalia expelled the Cubans last year after it became evident they were also supporting Ethiopia.

American and other sources give the following estimated breakdown of the Cuban presence in Africa:

ALGERIA, 35 medical aides.
ANGOLA, 19,000 military plus 4,000 civilian advisers.
BENIN, 10 to 20 security advisers.
CAPE VERDE, 10 to 15 medical aides.
CONGO, 300 military plus 100 to 50 technicians.
EQUATORIAL GUINEA, 300 to 400, about half military advisers.
ETHIOPIA, 2,500 military and medical.
GUINEA, 300 to 500, mostly military advisers.
GUINEA-BISSAU, 100 to 200, two-thirds of them military advisers.
LIBYA, 180 to 125 military advisers.
MADAGASCAR, 30 military advisers.
MOZAMBIQUE, 600 to 750, of whom 150 are technicians.
SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE, 75 to 80 medical aides.
SIERRA LEONE, 100 to 125 military advisers.
TANZANIA, 350 to 500, mostly technicians.
UGANDA, possibly 25 military men.
ZAMBIA, about 75 military men reported advising Rhodesian guerrillas.

commonwealth -- are convinced that Havana is the main financial backer of the pro-independence Puerto Rico Socialist Party.

Some of the islands of the Caribbean are seeking independence and Cuba is believed to be seeking influence in those areas through political parties rather than violent revolution.

Cuba's involvement in Africa was capped last March by a tour by Mr. Castro to Somalia, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Mozambique and Angola. Its role in Africa has widened since.

Last month, a soldier whom Somalia identified as one of an estimated 2,500 Cubans supporting Ethiopian forces was captured by ethnic Somali insurgents in the Ogaden Region of eastern Ethiopia.

Also last month, western diplomats in Lusaka reported the recent arrival of an estimated 50 to 75 Cuban milita-

commitment is to Ethiopia, whose leftist regime is fighting at least two guerrilla movements. Cuban troops are reported to be flying into Ethiopia aboard Soviet-made IL-26 jet transports to prepare for a counter-offensive against Somali-backed rebels in the Ogaden area.

Angola, Ethiopia and Zambia are only three of the 16 African states where Cuba is reported training armies, growing coffee, running hospitals, building schools and establishing state security systems.

Mr. Castro also provided military advisers to South Yemen to support insurgent activities against neighbouring Oman. Oman crushed the rebellion.

Virtually all of Cuba's soldiers overseas are in Africa, and it is Africa which Mr. Castro has apparently chosen as a battleground in his bid

Amman Stock Exchange Report

Company Name	Share Price	Volume	Opening Price	Highest Price	Lowest Price	Closing Price	Last Buying Bid	Last Selling Bid
Arab Bank Ltd.	JD 1.000	25	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	—	—
Arab Insurance Co.	JD 1.000	25	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	—	—
Arab Chamber of Commerce	JD 1.000	141	7.000	7.000	7.000	7.000	—	—
Arab Agricultural Co.	JD 1.000	25	0.950	0.950	0.950	0.950	0.900	1.000
Arab Industrial Co.	JD 1.000	25	1.200	1.250	1.250	1.250	1.250	1.400
Arab Real Estate Co.	JD 10.000	1,000	15.200	15.250	15.250	15.250	15.250	15.350
Arab Shipping Co.	JD 1.000	100	1.000	0.900	0.900	0.900	—	—
Arab Development Co.	JD 1.000	25	0.910	0.950	0.950	0.950	—	—
Arab Finance Co.	JD 1.000	215	2.150	2.150	2.150	2.150	—	—

Total Volume: 10,000 Shares, Feb. 1: JD 9,300

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BUSINESS SUPPLIES

50 OPEC members meet to resolve crude oil price differentials

GENEVA, Feb. 1 (AP). — Ministers and their aides from five members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries met here today to try to resolve their differences over pricing different varieties of crude oil. Though the economic impact of any decision here would be small, conference delegates said it was significant that the meeting was held at all.

Four OPEC members along the Gulf — Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait — have been squabbling for more than a year, charging one another with shaving these price differentials to keep sales steady at a time when non-OPEC oil sources in Alaska, the North Sea and Mexico have created a glut on the market.

Last July, Venezuela offered to mediate the dispute. Venezuela's minister, Hernandez Acosta, is leading the meeting here.

The meeting took place amid tight security. In addition to the meeting site in a luxury hotel — which costs \$600 a day — OPEC has booked two floors of the hotel for the three dozen participants.

Security was tight enough to lure Ahmad Zaki Yamani into public after a two-year absence. Two years ago, in Vienna at the

OPEC headquarters, Mr. Yamani was singled out by a terrorist group led by the Venezuelan code-named Carlos and threatened with death during a kidnap of more than 30 OPEC officials to Algeria. Mr. Yamani was unharmed, but friends say he has become extremely cautious.

Hernandez Acosta said before the meeting that it was being held because "the Saudis have agreed to discuss" the problems of differentials.

During the two-tier price system in the first half of last year, when Saudi Arabian oil cost about 3 per cent to 5 per cent less than that of the other three Gulf states here, Mr. Yamani was accused of undercutting prices in part to score political points with the United States, Iran, Iraq and Kuwait saw their sales fall, and they did not catch up in the second half because the grow-

ing surplus meant that the few pennies separating prices became important.

The basic oil price is \$12.70 per barrel, but the so-called heavy crudes cost less because they are more expensive to refine.

Until last week, Saudi heavy crude — about 15 per cent of its total production — was the cheapest, at \$12.32. Then Kuwait cut 10 cents off its crude to \$12.27, while Iranian crude remains the most expensive, at \$12.49. Iraqi oil, though somewhat different in quality, is also thought to be more costly.

Kuwait's problem is especially acute, since it produces only heavy crude, and needs the output to keep up the flow of associated gas. It has invested \$3 billion in gas-processing. A Saudi official said here that there was sympathy for the Kuwaiti problem, but that this did not mean that Saudi Arabia would lower its price or permit Kuwait a further reduction.

Strike cuts Turkish oil output in half

ANKARA, Feb. 1 (R). — A pay strike at an oilfield in Diyarbakir Province, Eastern Turkey, has cut this country's oil production by more than half.

The stoppage by some 130 men employed by the Shell Company of Turkey has stopped all production from the company's wells, which normally yield around 28,000 barrels a day.

A Shell spokesman said contacts between management and workers were continuing.

Production from the wells in the area operated by Shell provide about 58 per cent of Turkey's domestic production.

Less than one quarter of Turkey's oil needs are produced locally, but the country has had problems paying for its crude imports from Iraq and the Libyan Jamahiriyyah because of a chronic shortage of foreign exchange.

Poland devalues zloty

WARSAW, Feb. 1 (AP). — The Polish government devalued its currency today according to exchange tables published in the state-controlled press.

The zloty was listed at the tourist rate of 33.20 to the U.S. dollar. The official rate of 19.92 to the dollar was left out of the tables. The West German mark was quoted at 15.58 zlotys, the British pound at 63.70. Government comment was not immediately available.

Saudi Arabia grants land ownership rights to nationals of 4 Gulf states

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia, Feb. 1 (R). — Nationals of four Gulf Arab states are now entitled to own land and real estate in Saudi Arabia under a royal order published here yesterday.

The order allows nationals from Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, residing in Saudi Arabia, to own land, except in the vicinity of the two holy shrines of Mecca and Medina, provided they constructed houses or buildings on them within a period not exceeding two years.

The order, issued in response

for requests from the four Gulf states, made reciprocity a condition.

Under the order published in the daily newspaper Al Medina, these people who own the land cannot sell it or grant to anyone else if they fail to construct houses on them the government would have the right to take it over in return for its original price.

The order also gave the nationals of the four Gulf states the right to retail trade in Saudi Arabia but not to act as agents.

Last year foreigners were banned from trading in the kingdom.

Japan's reserves rise to \$23.37b.

TOKYO, Feb. 1 (R). — Japan's gold and foreign exchange reserves increased in January to a record \$23.37 billion, the Finance Ministry announced today.

The reserves stood at \$22.84 billion at the end of December.

Germany pledges support for Greek entry to EEC by end of 1979

BONN, Feb. 1 (R). — West Germany has pledged to support Greece's bid to become the 10th member of the European Common Market (EEC) by the end of 1979, Greek Premier Constantine Karamanlis said yesterday.

Mr. Karamanlis told reporters after four hours of talks with West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt: "The West German government is in favour of speeding up the entry negotiations."

Herr Schmidt said he hoped that negotiations for Greece's entry could be concluded under West German chairmanship of the European Council of Ministers by the end of this year.

"In expressing this hope, I am well aware of the difficulties that have to be overcome," Herr Schmidt said. But it was in the interest of democratic stability in Greece that negotiations were not drawn out for too long, he added.

Mr. Karamanlis said he agreed with Herr Schmidt that the question of Greece's EEC entry had to be isolated from all other issues including that of the country's re-integration into the military cooperation of the North Atlantic defence alliance (NATO).

He added that West Germany had pledged to continue military assistance to Greece. Further West German private investment in Greece was also discussed.

Asked whether he believed the new Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit was prepared to solve the Cyprus conflict, Mr. Karamanlis said he hoped that the Turkish government would come forward with "logical and honest proposals."

UAE to set up refinery at Ras Al Khaima

RAS AL KHAIMA, Feb. 1 (R). — Kuwait is to set up an oil refinery in the northernmost of the UAE Emirates, under an agreement signed here yesterday.

The official Emirates News Agency said the refinery, to be set up at Khor Khawair, will have a production capacity of 100,000 barrels a day.

The Kuwait government will own 49 per cent of the shares in a company to be established with the state of Ras Al Khaima to operate the refinery.

Kuwait will also supply the refinery with all the oil it needs, carry it on its own tankers and market part of the output earmarked for export, the agency added.

The Kellogg Corporation, a major American refinery supplier, was already carrying out studies on the project, it said. No other details were immediately available.

But observers noted that the proposed site of the refinery lies within a border area claimed by neighbouring Oman.

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C — The latest date for the submission of offers to the Telecommunications Corporation headquarters in Amman is 14:00 hours Saturday April 1, 1978.

D — Bids should be submitted in three separate complete copies, each suitably sealed with red wax and its covers labelled with the words "Bid for the provision of prepay coin operated (paystation) instruments, external and internal booths or enclosures. Tender No. TCC 2/78 original, first copy and second copy.

E — All bidders will be required to post a bid bond in the amount of five per cent of the bid value in Jordan dinars concurrent with the proposal issued from a Jordanian bank.

F — Any subsequent amendments will automatically be forward to purchasers of the tender documents.

G — All prices should be quoted in Jordanian dinars.

TCC Tender Committee
Amman, Jordan.

Is the Mediterranean dying?

Every year huge amounts of pesticides, metals (including 100 tons of mercury), untreated sewage and industrial waste enters the Mediterranean. Because the sea is virtually a lake, pollution is a major problem and one which becomes ever greater. Recently representatives of all its coastal states, with the exception of Albania, assembled in the latest of a series of meetings to review a three-year programme by the U.N.'s Environment Programme. Iain Guest reporting on the meeting, finds that there was a certain cooling of enthusiasm for the programme.

By Iain Guest

MONACO — How great is the threat of pollution in the Mediterranean? Despite alarming statistics from scientists, and talk in recent years about the "dying sea", that question is not quite so easy to answer today as might be supposed. That, at least, is the feeling after a meeting of coastal states called to review a three year programme by the U.N.'s Environment Programme (UNEP), which finished in the principality of Monaco recently.

The meeting brought together delegations from all the 18 states except Albania, which has consistently refused to attend. They had before them evidence by UNEP that the sea, if not actually dying, is nonetheless seriously ill.

Waste dump

Dr. Tolba, the Executive Director of UNEP, in his opening address, stated that each year a huge amount of pesticides (including 90 tons of DDT), heavy metals, (including 100 tons of mercury) untreated sewage and industrial

waste enters the sea.

The metals in particular cause concern, because they are not, in the words of the ecologists "biodegradable". And the nature of the Mediterranean, which one World Health Organisation official described as "a basin" (because it takes about 80 years for its water to wash out of the two narrow entrances) makes the pollution even worse.

The meeting was the latest of several, and also the most important in the three year UNEP programme, which began in 1975 with an overall declaration of principle in Barcelona. This has now been signed by 15 governments. But before it can become a legally-binding treaty, at least six of the states must ratify one or more of the protocols which give it substance.

So far two protocols have been agreed — one forbids dumping at sea, and the other calls for cooperation in the event of an emergency at sea. When France becomes the sixth state to ratify these the convention enters into force. But UNEP officials have always conceded that this third protocol — on land based sources of pollution — was bound to be the most difficult. It is far and away the most important: The research shows that the bulk of pollution in the sea comes off shores, and is carried down the huge rivers like the Po, Rhine, and Nile.

But its probable cost and political implications, they conceded, could well bring the first reverse in a programme which has succeeded in reconciling profound political differences. Turkish delegations have sat down with Greeks, Algerians and Moroccans.

They were right. The meeting had before it the draft of the protocol which had been agreed at a previous meeting in Venice last October. By the end of the meeting, they had succeeded in doing little more than highlighting the key areas of disagreement. These

will be clarified at future technical meetings. UNEP officials now expect that the protocol will not be ready for signing until well into 1979, possibly later.

Identifying the problems

The areas of disagreement have emerged in Monaco as the following: Whether or not existing factories should be allowed a long time before building in pollution controls: Whether states which contribute to the sea's pollution but are not themselves coastal members, should be held responsible. Whether states which cause pollution should pay compensation. And whether the protocol, which "extends to coastal waters up to the fresh water limit", should include inlets and bays. Each point was argued at enormous length. But it was clear at the end that the states to the south of the Mediterranean were all concerned that the treaty could have serious effects upon their industrial development.

Tunisia, for example, makes use of many deep bays and inlets in her phosphates industry — and so argued that these be excluded from the scope of the protocol. Algeria was worried throughout that curbs (which UNEP has tentatively estimated could cost up to \$5 billion, spread over a period of 20 years), would be too expensive. Morocco wanted states to be held strictly responsible, on the argument that the northern states, which are more heavily industrialised, caused most pollution.

All the North Africans united to demand that existing factories should adjust to the new controls quickly — on the grounds that applying strict controls to "new installations" would penalise their own industrial plans.

Behind this lay an even more complex issue — and one that will be difficult to resolve, although barely surfaced at the meeting: What levels are to be permissible? UNEP has proposed two lists of substances. One, the "black" list, would contain heavy metals whose emission into the sea in dangerous quantities would be prohibited altogether. The second, a "grey" list would contain substances to be strictly regulated.

The problem here is that no substance can be totally kept out of the sea: The questions

thus are how much is "dangerous" — and how can it be monitored? There are two ways, as well, in which they could be controlled. One would be to impose a uniform level of "acceptability", which would apply to all factories around the sea. But this, the North African states feel, would have a harmful effect upon their factories, which are far fewer than those in the north.

They therefore favour the second option — which would be to look first at the nature of the water into which the factories are pouring their waste, and then decide how much pollution it can take. Because they have long beaches and few factories, the southern countries like Libya and Morocco are confident that their industry would escape unharmed.

"Environmental management"

But if the developing countries were apprehensive about costs, so were the northern states. UNEP officials are keen to move away from a narrow definition of pollution to the wider concept of "environmental management". The area, they point out, receives up to 100 million tourists a year, and brings in fish which was last year valued at \$700

million. Curbing pollution is therefore just one aspect of the sensible economic management of the sea.

UNEP has drawn up a blue plan for the overall management of the sea, and a set of priorities covering tourism, sensible use of energy, fishing, and water management. Officials agreed, however, that little progress had been made in these areas — beyond restating principles and welcoming details of individual projects by the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP).

There was disappointment too that a permanent monitoring system of the sea's state was not agreed upon: So this now remains with 79 different stations around the coastal states.

The main reason was thought to be costs. Under the formula for assessing contributions to the United Nations, France alone would have to pay 47 per cent of the costs of any integrated development plan.

So both the northern delegation and those from the southern shore decided that there was a serious need for "more information" — not only on the implications of UNEP's ambitious proposals, but also the actual levels of pollution. "We simply don't

know enough about what is harmful", said one delegate, referring to the fact that mercury is considerably higher in the Mediterranean than other seas. Italy even proposed that sensitive data on the pollution might have to be kept secret, for fear it might get distorted.

Some observers talked of "backing off" and "enthusiasm cooling". They thought that the meeting had put back the programme by a year. But UNEP officials put a brave face on it. One welcomed what he called the "realistic tone" of the meeting. "We expected and hoped that the governments would look very closely at this," he said. "We want a treaty that they will want to observe."

One result of the meeting is to leave the costs and administration of the programme, which absorbs \$15 m. of a \$4.1 m. UNEP global sea programme, very much with UNEP executives had expressed the hope that the governments would take over 75 per cent of running costs starting in 1979. But this meeting has shown that the hope was premature — even though as one delegate said "the Mediterranean is still a model for controlling pollution in the rest of the world."



مكتبة الأمل

Europe-bound Israeli oranges said poisoned by West Bank workers

TEL AVIV, Feb. 1 (R). — The Israeli Citrus Marketing Board claimed today a metal substance found in some oranges sent from Israel to Europe had been inserted after the fruit arrived in Europe. A group calling itself the "Arab Revolutionary Army -- Palestine Command (ARA -- PC)" has claimed in a letter addressed to 18 European and Arab countries that "oppressed Palestinian workers" in the Israeli-occupied West Bank poisoned oranges with mercury to damage the Israeli economy. Oranges are Israel's main agricultural export product.

Board spokesman Isaac Lipkiss, in a statement issued here today, did not identify the substance, though the market group's manager for the Benelux countries, Mr. Jacques Arad, said yesterday that it was mercury.

Mr. Arad was commenting in Rotterdam on the case of five children in the southern Dutch town of Maastricht who were treated in hospital for 24 hours over the weekend after eating some of the contaminated oranges. A Dutch Health Ministry spokesman said they suffered no after-effects.

Mr. Arad said yesterday mercury had been found in Israeli oranges in Holland and West Germany, and authorities were investigating the cases.

Today's Citrus Marketing Board statement in Tel Aviv said oranges with "a metal substance" had been discovered in two places in Europe. The discovery was made "in a very small quantity of oranges by the customers themselves. After examining the fruit it was found that the damage to the fruit occurred in Europe," the statement claimed.

It added that the customers had been able to "identify the damage to the oranges from external signs."

The Dutch Health Ministry spokesman said yesterday the mercury was visible as tiny silver grey particles, but the quantity was so small there was no direct danger to health.

In Bonn, the West German government has ordered spot checks of Israeli oranges after it received ARA-PC warnings.

West Germany and Norway are the only countries so far to confirm receiving the letter.

A copy of the letter received by Reuters in London yesterday was addressed to the health ministries of 18 West and East European and Arab countries. They were: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Britain, France, Holland, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, Sweden, Finland, West Germany, Yugoslavia, Romania, Kuwait, Jordan, Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

Finland and Sweden said today they had not received the letter. Both Kuwait and Jordan said today they had not received any letter warning against the consumption of Israeli oranges.

Kuwait, like other Arab countries, bans the import of Israeli products, but those of Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967 are allowed in freely.

Jordan's Health Minister, Mr. Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh, told Reuters today that his country allowed West Bank oranges in only if documents by Arab Chambers of Commerce certified they were "grown by Arab hands and no Arab lands."

The copy of the ARA-PC letter received by Reuters yesterday said: "Our aim is not to indiscriminately kill your population but to sabotage the Israeli economy, which is built up on oppression, racial discrimination and colonial occupation."

Following a meeting between Rhodesia's Deputy Premier David Smith and UANC Vice President James Chikere, the council announced it would make an end to its boycott which began when Bishop Muzorewa stormed out of a meeting last Friday.

Mr. Robert Mugabe and Mr. Joshua Nkomo, co-leaders of the Patriotic Front held talks today with Dr. Owen and United States Ambassador to the United Nations Andrew Young in a hotel overlooking Victoria Falls.

Conference sources said today's talks -- the third day of negotiations on settlement terms to end Rhodesia's guerrilla war -- were expected to try to fix a date for a further meeting in the future.

So far the negotiations, marked at times by emotional exchanges between the Patriotic Front leaders and Dr. Owen, have failed to bridge the wide gap between Western and guerrilla peace terms.

Meanwhile, the Rhodesian government last night smoothed relations with the United African National Council (UANC) of Bishop Abel Muzorewa, clearing the way for full-scale resumption of the rival internal

Life could exist on Mars after all

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1 (R). — Scientists have reopened the possibility of life existing on Mars after the discovery of tiny organisms hiding in the interior of rocks in the Antarctic wastes.

Working in freezing temperatures where relentless winds keep snow from settling and have sculpted rocks into strange shapes, researchers have found "micro vegetation" where it was believed life could not exist.

The discovery, announced yesterday, was made in a region known as the Dry Valleys, on the coast of the Ross Sea near

off radiation that could be dangerous to living beings exposed at close range for a number of hours.

The latest fragments from the satellite were located on the farthest end of the frigid lake about 385 kms. east of Yellowknife, capital of the Canadian Northwest Territories.

On Saturday two members of a group retracing a 1972 explorer's route found the first satellite debris at Warden's Grove, a remote Arctic weather outpost 240 kms. northeast of Reliance.

United Nations legal experts said the language of U.N. treaties would make the Soviet Union liable to pay compensation both for damage caused by the satellite and the cost of tracking down debris and radiation sources. But no official cost estimates have yet been given.

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Right seeks halt to arms shipments as tension in South Lebanon rises

BEIRUT, Feb. 1 (R). — Lebanon's alliance of rightwing parties yesterday called for an end to arms shipments to Palestinian commandos amid mounting gloom here over the prospects for peace in the Middle East.

A communique published by the military command of the rightwing Lebanese Front urged the government to declare the southern port of Tyre closed to international shipping and thus cut the main arms supply line for the Palestinian and their leftwing Lebanese allies.

According to Western diplomats here, both sides in the Lebanese conflict -- which is inextricably linked with the overall Middle East crisis -- have been receiving a steady stream of arms and ammunition over the past two months.

The arms build-up comes as predictions mount that Lebanon will serve as the flash-point for another Israeli-Arab or inter-Arab war linked with the fate of President Sadat's peace overture to Israel.

"Whether happens in the Middle East, we will suffer," said a Lebanese Front analyst today, echoing the fears of many Lebanese.

These fears are based on the continuing war in southern Lebanon along the sensitive frontier with Israel, which backs rightist forces against Lebanon's Palestinian-leftist alliance. These have been fighting since the 19-month civil war ended in Lebanon, except in its southern region, over a year ago.

"There are three alternatives at present, and they are all bad," the analyst said. "If Sadat and the Israelis conclude a separate peace deal, there will be fighting on the eastern front -- between Israel and Syria. Southern Lebanon will be involved."

"If there is no agreement, there will be a fifth Arab-Israeli war. Lebanon will be involved. With almost 30,000 Syrian troops stationed here to keep the civil war truce, we are a front line country."

"If there is a comprehensive peace agreement, there will be civil strife inside Arab countries or between Arab countries by pitting opponents and supporters of whatever accord there may be."

Despite common opposition to President Sadat, Syria and Iraq failed to bury their differences over the principles of Middle East policy.

Much of the 1975-76 fighting in Lebanon was an Arab war by proxy, reflecting the differences between Syria and Egypt and their respective supporters at the time. Many Lebanese feel that inter-Arab differences will once again be fought out here.

Israel's continued support of the rightists and its apparent lack of action to stop arms supplies to the Palestinians and leftists lend weight to the gloomy forecasts.

Observers here described the rightists' call today for the closure of Tyre as a mere exercise in rhetoric. Neither the Lebanese government nor the Syrian-dominated Arab League peace force have any control over the area.

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"The only people who could stop arms shipments to the Palestinians are the Israelis," a Western diplomat here said.

"They don't want to because it's in their interest to keep the pot in Lebanon boiling."

During part of the civil war, Israel maintained a naval blockade of the ports of Sidon and Tyre to prevent supplies from reaching the Palestinians, whose only remaining base of operations is southern Lebanon.

The rightists are now calling for the evacuation of all Palestinians from Lebanon, a demand considerably harder than previous calls for disarmament of the Palestinians.

Their number is estimated at 400,000 and Israel has made clear that it will not allow the establishment of an independent state for them on the Israeli-occupied West Bank of the River Jordan and the Gaza Strip.

Rightwing leader Dory Chamoun recently repeated his demand that the Palestinians should quit Lebanon within two years. "With 400,000 here, that works out at almost 20,000 a month, so they had better start now," he said.

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Bonn minister resigns over bugging affair

BONN, Feb. 1 (R). — Defence Minister George Leber has submitted his resignation to Chancellor Helmut Schmidt following a new bugging scandal, the chief government spokesman announced today. The 57-year-old minister has been under strong attack from opposition Conservatives over an alleged spy ring in the ministry and the bugging of his personal secretary's apartment. His critics say Herr Leber minimised or attempted to conceal the facts about the two affairs.

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